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TEXT OF TELEGRAM 80STATE 154529

EXCISE

ADP301

PAGE 01 STATE 154529 POSS DUPE  
ORIGIN EA-12

INFO OCT-00 ADS-00 HA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01  
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15  
ICA-11 TRSE-00 AID-07 IO-14 /091 R

DRAFTED BY EA/K:DBMCNEAL  
APPROVED BY EA/K:BDPORTER  
EA/K:RGRICH  
EA:MARMACJST

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P R 120446Z JUN 80  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY SEOUL PRIORITY  
INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

STATE 154529

E.O. 12065: GDS 6/6/86 (PORTER, BLAINE)

TAGS: PINT, SHUM, KS, US

SUBJECT: U.S. CHURCHMEN AND KOREAN DISSIDENTS CALL ON EA

SUMMARY: IN A CORDIAL BUT SERIOUS SESSION ON FRIDAY, A  
MIXED GROUP OF U.S. CHURCH LEADERS AND KOREAN ACTIVISTS  
FRANKLY EXPRESSED TO DAS ARMACOST THEIR DEEP CONCERN OVER  
RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN KOREA AND OVER USG POLICY. END  
SUMMARY.

1. ON JUNE 6, A SEVEN-MEMBER GROUP OF U.S. CHURCH LEADERS  
AND KOREAN DISSIDENTS CALLED ON DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY  
ARMACOST AND KOREA COUNTRY DIRECTOR RICH TO EXPRESS THEIR  
CONCERN OVER REPRESSION BY CHUN DOO HWAN'S ADMINISTRATION  
AND TO URGE MORE POSITIVE USG POSTURES AND ACTIONS.  
SESSION, WHICH LASTED SOME 80 MINUTES, WAS POLITE BUT WAXED  
EMOTIONAL, PARTICULARLY WHEN KOREAN SPEAKERS EXPRESSED

PAGE 02 STATE 154529 POSS DUPE  
THEIR FRUSTRATIONS. [

DEPARTMENT OF STATE 9003608 IS/FPC/CDR TRB Date. 9/13/93

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PA Exemptions		( ) DOWNGRADE TS to ( ) S or ( ) C OADR

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1271

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2. KOREAN PARTICIPANTS LED OFF, WITH L MENTIONING  
PAGE NO. B6

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1271

WIDESPREAD LACK OF TRUST IN THE CENSORED PRESS, WHICH WAS BANNED FROM PRINTING THAT KWANGJU DEMONSTRATORS HAD CALLED FOR CHUN DOO HWAN'S RESIGNATION, AND HAD ASSERTED THAT THEY WERE NOT COMMUNISTS, OR THAT DEPARTMENT HAD REPLIED, WHEN ASKED, THAT WE HAVE NO EVIDENCE OF UNUSUALLY THREATENING NORTH KOREAN TROOP MOVEMENTS.

[ ] RECITED LURID REPORTS OF ALLEGED BRUTALITY IN KWANGJU, ESPECIALLY ON MAY 17-18 AND EXPRESSED FRUSTRATION AT IMPRESSION GIVEN KOREAN PEOPLE THAT "U.S. WANTS A STRONGMAN" AND OVER HIS FAILED HOPES FOR EFFICACY OF THE PRESIDENT'S HUMAN RIGHTS POLICY. HE ASSERTED THAT NET RESULT OF U.S. POLICY WOULD NOT BE STABILITY, AND EXPRESSED FEAR THAT STUDENTS MIGHT "COOLLY" AND RATIONALLY TURN TO COMMUNISM AND ANTI-AMERICANISM.

ALSO ALLUDED TO GROWING DOUBTS ON PART OF PREVIOUSLY PRO-AMERICAN CHURCHWOMEN THAT USG POLICY SUPPORTS ANYTHING OTHER THAN OUR ECONOMIC INTERESTS, TO HER SENSE OF INSTABILITY IN KOREAN SOCIETY, AND TO HER WORRY ABOUT NORTH KOREAN AGITATION OF ANTI-AMERICAN FEELINGS. IN DISCUSSING DIFFERENCES BETWEEN CHUN REGIME AND PREVIOUS PARK GOVERNMENT, [ ] CONCENTRATED ON TREMENDOUS SENSE OF BETRAYAL HE FELT TOWARD MILITARY LEADERS AND HIS ANGER OVER "TRUE NATURE OF MILITARY MIND," WHICH HAD PROGRESSIVELY REVEALED ITSELF IN ACTION

PAGE 03 STATE 154529 POSS DUPE

AGAINST "FREEDOM-LOVING PEOPLE."

3. IN THOUGHTFUL PRESENTATION, [ ] CRITICIZED U.S. PUBLIC POSTURE OF "HELPLESSNESS" AND ASSERTED THAT STATEMENTS OF CONCERN BY DEPARTMENT SPOKESMEN MADE LITTLE IMPRESSION ON KOREAN LEADERS IN SEOUL. HE EXPRESSED PARTICULAR DISLIKE WITH THE IMPRESSION OF "BUSINESS AS USUAL" BY EXIM CHAIRMAN MOORE'S TRIP TO SEOUL AND WITH THE LATTER'S REMARKS THERE, WHICH HE SAW AS USG SUPPORT FOR CHUN. [ ] RECALLED HIS EXPERIENCE WITH PAST INSTANCES OF USG PRESSURE ON KOREAN POLITICS, AND NOTED WERE HINT OF PRESSURES MIGHT BE EFFECTIVE.

4. ARMACOST ACKNOWLEDGED OUR CONCERN AND EVEN ANGUISH OVER THESE VERY ISSUES, AND SKETCHED BRIEFLY THE RECORD OF OUR PUBLIC STATEMENTS AND PRIVATE COUNSEL, INCLUDING OUR DISMAY AT LATEST POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS. HE REASSURED THE GROUP THAT WE HAD HEARD MOST OF THE SPECIFICS THEY HAD RAISED, AND THAT WE ARE AWARE OF SOME EXPRESSIONS OF ANTI-AMERICANISM, AMONG ELEMENTS WITHIN THE MILITARY, AS WELL AS ON THE DISSIDENT SIDE. ARMACOST EXPLAINED BACKGROUND TO MOORE TRIP DECISION AND LIMITS ON GENERAL WICKHAM'S DISCRETION CONCERNING WITHDRAWAL OF UNITS FROM HIS OPERATIONAL CONTROL.

5. BEFORE DEPARTING, GROUP UNANIMOUSLY AND STRONGLY

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ENDORSED [ ] STATEMENT THAT KIM DAE JUNG MUST BE  
SAVED FROM HIS PRESENTLY GRAVELY PRECARIOUS POSITION,  
AND [ ] STRONG RECOMMENDATION THAT THE  
SECRETARY OR PRESIDENT SPEAK OUT PUBLICLY IN SOME FASHION  
TO DISTANCE OURSELVES FROM THE CHUN GOVERNMENT .

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6. [ ]

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[ ] MUSKIE

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